

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)225****(Question Serial No. 4185)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 204):

Please provide detailed information on the expenditure for inspection of railway facility / system by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past five years. Please specify the estimated expenditure for inspection of railway facility / system by the EMSD in the year 2014-15. Please explain the specific work and standard for the inspection of railway facility / system by the EMSD.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

In line with international practices, the EMSD adopts a “risk-based approach” in regulating railway safety, so that closer attention would be given to areas that might pose higher risk to safety of railway operation based on track record. Safety inspections are also arranged accordingly. Besides, the EMSD monitors, through inspections and assessments, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)’s robustness in its internal systems and management practices to ensure that the MTRCL adheres to the best international safety practices and standards. Whenever there are railway incidents requiring investigation, the EMSD carries out inspections to investigate the cause, identify appropriate improvement measures to prevent recurrence, and ensure that the MTRCL has duly implemented them. Furthermore, the EMSD regularly inspects the safety-critical areas of the railway lines to ensure railway safety. For new railways, the EMSD carries out safety tests and inspections to ensure safety requirements have been met prior to confirming that the new railways are safe for operation.

The numbers of professional/technical staff and the corresponding expenditure for regulating safety of the railways are set out below:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
No. of staff	9	9	11	13	15
Expenditure (\$ million)	7.577	7.690	9.896	11.587	13.699

The number of staff involved and the corresponding expenditure for regulating safety of the railways in 2014-15 will remain the same as in 2013-14.